



**DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
2120 EAST MAIN STREET  
DORCHESTER, SC 29437**

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**Douglas M. Tompkins, PE, RLS, Director**  
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Date: May 27, 2003

Ms. Melinda C. Mathias  
SCDHEC - Bureau of Air Quality  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Encl: (1) Proposed Progress Report  
(2) Reduction Strategies under consideration

Dear Ms. Mathias:

Re: Dorchester County (Early Action Compact) Milestone Report

Attached please find Enclosures (1) and (2), the May 28, 2003, report. Again, thank you for your participation and support.

Sincerely,

Director

Early Action Compact - June 2003  
Progress Report

Dorchester County

1. Stakeholder Process

- A. November 2002, County rep attended general meeting at Library in Charleston, SC. Write brief to County Administrator about hazards of Ozone, EPA's 1 hour test becomes an 8 hour test and SC DHEC presents Early Action Compact for signature.
- B. December 20, 2003, County Administrator signs Early Action Compact.
- C. January 22, 2003, a memo was submitted with Resolution for Council's consideration.
- D. February 5, 2003, an Ozone meeting at Council of Governments was held.
- E. February 26, 2003, a county rep attends an Update session in Columbia, SC.
- F. March 17, 2003, a Plan of Action was submitted to Administrator with target dates.
- G. April 14, 2003, a Stakeholders meeting of (1) SC DHEC rep and (3) County reps was held at the Public Works Conference Room.

Ms. Melinda Mathias, represented DHEC

Mr. Wesley H. Birt, represented Dorchester County Public Works

Mr. David W. Pilch, represented SC DOT, Regional Maintenance, St. George, SC.

Mr. Donald Brown, Building Codes represented, St. George, Reevesville, Harleyville, & Ridgeville.

Brief Summary: The major thrust of this proposal will be to educate the public. Rather than attempt to create major changes, we shall look within our own areas to see what steps we can do to change the behavior of those around us.

H. April 16, 2003, county received SC DOT proposal.

I. April 18, 2003, a proposed first report of ideas and actions was forwarded for County Public Safety Committee consideration. .

J. April 22, 2003, the proposed report will be submitted to Administrator for consideration.

2. Evaluation Process

A. The stakeholders prepared a list of proposed reduction strategies composed of those measures that had compiled in their own working areas and from the ideas presented in the DHEC Tool box.

B. The list is herewith presented to County Council via the County Administrator. The Council Public Safety Committee has Ozone on their agenda. The committee will pare down the proposed list and submit results to full Council for their overview. The finished list will be submitted to DHEC.

3. Outreach Activities

A. The press (Summerville Journal Scene) and the local Audubon Society

Enclosure (1)

(Biedler Forest) were invited to attend the initial April 14th meeting. They elected not to attend.

B. The Stakeholders plan to have a meeting with school representatives to insert this "OZONE AWARENESS" into the curriculum.

C. The Stakeholders will seek avenues to create or purchase a short video on the hazards of Ground Level Ozone for the schools to use and as Public Service announcements. Enclosure (1)

D. The Stakeholders plan to have a meeting with the local weather forecasters to compare what resources they may have available. It will be important that the schools and the TV public service announcements are presenting the same message.

4. Modeling/Technical Planning

A. This is a SC DHEC activity.

5. Caveat: It is understood that this program is an "Unfunded Mandate". Failure to participate could endanger use of Federal funding for Federal projects such as highway or education funding. Dorchester County is located near the Coastal region and is not considered in a high threat area. The Education portion of this plan should be approved to remain current with general trends. The effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled is prudent to making the County more efficient and possible savings of tax-payer money. All other activities in this program will be utilized only during periods of non-attainment of safe levels of ground level ozone.

Enclosure (1)



Early Action Compact - May 28, 2003  
List of Emission Reduction Strategies Under Consideration

Dorchester County

Based on stakeholder consultation and taking into consideration resource and political constraints, the following control measures are under consideration and can be reasonably implemented. It is anticipated these measures under consideration will assist Dorchester County in achieving and/or maintaining the 8-hour ozone standard by 2007.

Measures under Consideration	Description of Measure (A more detailed description will be included in the Early Action Plan.)	Estimate of emission Reductions (if available)	Proposed date of implementation	Geographic area and/or local government
1. Form Stakeholders Group	Invitations mailed to all mayors to provide a representative. See Progress Report in enclosure (1)	Not available	Done April 14, 2003	County wide
2. Solicit letters of support from mayors and Industry leaders.	The County will request "Letters of Support" from mayors and Industry leaders that they recognize the importance and will take steps to minimize the effects of Ground level ozone. A quarterly newsletter will be prepared and distributed citing the procedures being adopted by various entities.	Not available	County Administrator will request Letters of Support. Stakeholders will prepare and mail newsletters	County wide
3. Encourage CHATS Committee to <u>adopt strong measures</u> to reduce ozone.	Dorchester County and the town of Summerville have representatives on the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee. CHATS has already adopted a Car Pool website.	Not available	CHATS representatives will be kept informed and encouraged by Stakeholders	County wide.  Enclosure (2)

4. Encourage CHATS to provide more <u>Mass Transit</u> planning for Dorchester County	Dorchester County and the town of Summerville have representatives on the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee. CHATS has already adopted a Car Pool website.	Not available	CHATS representatives will be kept informed by encouraged by Stakeholders	County wide
5. Encourage CHATS to do more " <u>Park and Ride</u> " planning.	Dorchester County and the town of Summerville have representatives on the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee. CHATS has already adopted a Car Pool website.	Not available	CHATS representatives will be kept informed and encouraged by Stakeholders	County wide
6. County business' and Industry are encouraged to promote carpooling.	County has a preferred parking plan for department heads and Councilmen. This plan could easily be adjusted to reserve preferred parking for (3 pax or more) carpool members	Significant savings and reduction in vehicle mileage	County Administrator to have parking program revised for 30 day test period.	County wide
7. County government, business' and Industry are encouraged to promote a staggered work hours, carpooling and tele-commuting.	County will promote programs to stagger work times and eliminate traffic congestion at peak traffic periods. County Road Maintenance Crews are working a 4 day/10 hour shift to eliminate (1) full day of travel for the employees. Other employee positions could be telecommuting: i.e. Building Inspectors and appraisers could be assigned jobs prior to leaving their homes. Their reports could be done via the County Intra-net. They don't even need a permanent office	Not available	County Administrator can promote a feasibility study to determine the validity of these ideas.	County wide  Enclosure (2)

8. Involve the two School Districts in the education process.	Determine where Ground Level Ozone will fit into the curriculum at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. Determine what resources are available. The school could create an educational video for short spots on the local radio and TV to educate John Q. Public. The school journalism students could write educational ads for magazines and newspaper publications. Students can assist in preparing a booth display for festivals etc.	Not available	Stakeholders to contact and work with the schools.	County wide
9. School System could change policy regarding School Bus operations.	The School Bus Pick up and Drop areas are most notorious for generating exhaust gases. Waiting buses should shut down their engines until after they are loaded. (Minimize idle time in drop zone.) Keeping the air-conditioning operating becomes secondary to children's health.	Not available	Superintendent of school policy formulation.	County wide
10. Business' and Industry leaders are encouraged to use Ground Level Ozone as educational topic in their regular training schedule.	Educational resources must be made available to educate John Q. Public as to what is meant by the "Ozone Report" he sees on the TV news every night. A booth at festivals will have a giant display and hand-outs about "Ozone and it Hazards". These booths can be manned by school kids and/or boy scouts at the various festivals and the Industry Expo at the Industry Appreciation Exhibits.	Not available	Stakeholders seek and find educational materials. Arrange display and publish work schedule for booths	County wide  Enclosure (2)

11. Senior Citizen Centers, Nursery Schools and Elementary Schools	Senior Citizen Centers, Nursery Schools and Elementary Schools should restrict their programs to indoor activities during periods of non-attainment (High Ozone levels). Indoor activities for these groups should also be restricted to Environmentally Controlled enclosures.	Not available	Stakeholders should seek and find educational materials for these groups.	County wide
12. One of the primary missions of County Council is to protect the public from health hazards and provide for their safety.	County Council can establish new rules and regulations and expend tax payer's money for the health and safety of its citizens and to improved efficiency to operate the county. It is Council's desire to have fewer regulations and to justify any expenses as may be required. As an extreme measure, it may be necessary to Ban all outdoor Burning between May and Sept. to reduce smoke & ground level ozone. Tax incentives can be created to encourage the use of newer, low-emission vehicles. Tax Incentives can be created for those that use Car Pooling, Tax incentives would be prudent for those who use of alternative fuel vehicles.	Not available	Council cannot control Forest fires, however, they can control burning. Our smoke may drift from one County to the next.	County wide
13. Planning/ Zoning and Building Code regulations should reflect the latest energy conservation technology.	More energy conservation means less ozone emissions. Residential and Commercial Parking lots landscape requirements should provide adequate shade trees to reduce air conditioning needs. Higher R ratings and storm windows reduce energy cooling needs. Encourage pedestrian oriented developments to reduce need for using vehicles for grocery shopping, and other needs. Encourage use of mass transit systems and car	Not available	County Council enact or modify existing rules with these procedures in mind.	County wide  Enclosure (2)





16. County could provide a shuttle service (using County vehicles) between St. George and Summerville at a time convenient to the employees.	County policy frowns on using propositioned County vehicles to shuttle employees between the Waggoner Services Center and the Summerville Services Center. One vehicle leaving each Center at 8:00AM and returning at 5:15PM would be greatly utilized. Additionally an emergency vehicle must be available to alleviate the transit's need for an emergency during the day.	Significant savings and reduction in vehicle mileage.	County Administrator approval and assign a 30 day test program be initiated to determine its popularity.	County Government
17. County Vehicle Maintenance and other businesses with fleet vehicles must be trained to reduce elements that contribute to ozone.	Vehicle exhaust is one of the major contributors to smog. Any means to reduce internal combustion engine operation will be good. Compile parts list runs to only one trip per/day. Avoid long idle times during maintenance. Use exhaust vac systems for all indoor maintenance operations. Refuel vehicle fleet before 9:00 AM or after 6:00 PM during days of high ozone. Avoid overfilling tanks. Use of vapor recovery fuel pumps to minimize vapors. Curtail lawn care operations (mowers & trimmers) during periods of high ozone. Encourage purchase of alternative fuel vehicles (electric, bio-diesel, LP Gas, Ethanol, Methanol and other low emission fuels). Keep vehicles operating at peak efficiency. Avoid vehicle operations during periods of peak traffic flow.	Not Available	Ozone Training is a must for auto repair employees	County Government  Enclosure (2)